

Message Text

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43

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IR, FR, GW

SUBJECT: FRANCO-IRANIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: TEHRAN 9882

1. THE PARIS PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES HAD SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT TO BUY TWO NUCLEAR REACTOR POWER STATIONS, EACH OF 900 MEGAWATTS (ELECTRIC) FROM THE FRENCH FIRM FRAMATONE, THE LEADING FRENCH CONSTRUCTOR OF PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS. FRAMATONE, WHICH IS JOINTLY OWNED BY CREUSOT-LOIRE (51), AND WESTINGHOUSE (45), WILL BE PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE (EDF). THE SIGNING TOOK PLACE DURING THE VISIT TO TEHRAN OF MICHEL D'ORNANO, FRENCH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY HUGUES DE L'ESTOILLE AND CEA ADMINISTRATOR ANDRE GIRAUD.

2. THE FRENCH ALSO SIGNED A MEMORANDUM WITH THE IRANIANS CALLING FOR THE CEA TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY NUCLEAR FUEL FOR THE TWO REACTORS, COOPERATE IN EXPANDING URANIUM RESERVES OF IRAN AND THIRD WORLD

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COUNTRIES, AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IRANIAN

NUCLEAR CENTER, SCHEDULED TO GO INTO OPERATION BETWEEN 1978 AND 1980.

3. CEA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE CONFIRMED THE ABOVE CEA ROLE. WESTINGHOUSE REP CONFIRMED THE FRAMATONE SALE AND THAT FRAMATONE WOULD BE THE PROJECT MANAGER, A ROLE WHICH EDF ASSUMES FOR REACTORS CONSTRUCTED IN FRANCE.

4. COMMENT: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SALE IS THAT IT ESTABLISHES FRANCE AS A CREDIBLE SUPPLIER OF MODERN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS INCLUDING RELATED EQUIPMENT AND ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL. THE FRENCH HAD SOLD POWER REACTOR PLANTS TO BORDERING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH SALE OUTSIDE EUROPE. THE FRENCH CONSIDER EXPORTATION ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THEIR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. THEY ARE ALSO BIDDING TO BUILD A NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

RUSH

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